



U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Construction and Operation of the Grizzly Peak Switch Station A0 at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory LB-CX-17-02

Program or Field Office: Berkeley Site Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Berkeley, California

Proposed Action Description:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes a project at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) that includes: the design, installation, and operation of new 12kV, 4,000-amp switch station at the LBNL Grizzly Peak substation. The proposed project would provide increased and more reliable electrical distribution to meet LBNL's current needs; it also would provide capacity for future growth in electrical demand, which is projected to increase substantially in the next five-to-ten years. (Any future LBNL projects that would propose to contribute to such electrical demand increases would address the environmental impacts of those increases through the NEPA process.) Grizzly Peak substation's existing 12.5kV, 2,000-amp switch station would continue to operate. Figure (1) shows the location of the proposed action on the LBNL site.

The project boundaries would be mostly contained within the fenced area of the Grizzly Peak substation, with some conductor bank work occurring in adjoining LBNL roadbeds. The switch station is a manufactured steel enclosure that is founded on a concrete vault structure with a grade-level concrete suspended slab. The switch structure is approximately 27 feet long by 22 feet wide by 10 feet tall. Proposed project construction is expected to begin in fall/winter 2018 and last approximately two years. Excavation, concrete pouring, equipment installation, and system tie-in work would be required. Up to 10-15 workers would be on site at any time. Delivery and concrete trucks would be required sporadically and in relatively small numbers. The Grizzly Peak substation is a paved utility enclosure centrally located at the LBNL main hill site. The Grizzly Peak substation is surrounded by roads, support structures, and steep, vegetated slopes.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

- B1.31 - Installation or relocation of machinery and equipment
- B4.11 - Electrical power substations and interconnection facilities
- B1.17 - Polychlorinated biphenyl removal

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of 10 CFR Part 1021.

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to

other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

I concur that the above description accurately describes the proposed action.

LBNL Environmental Planner: Jeff Philliber  Date Determined: 4-24-17

I concur that the above description accurately describes the proposed action.

BSO Project Manager: Rick Chapman  Date Determined: 4/24/17

The above description accurately describes the proposed action, which reflects the requirements of the CX cited above. Therefore, I recommend that the proposed action be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.


BSO NEPA Program Manager: Sue Fields  Date Determined: 4/24/17

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1 B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer: James F. Elvins  **Date Determined:** 4/26/17
Click here to enter a date.

This document has been reviewed and determined to be UNCLASSIFIED.
This review constitutes clearance for Public Release.

Date determined: 0427/2017

Derivative Classifier: Melanie L Underwood 
Acting Classification Officer ISC-OR

